

From: Charles Borner
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Pardon me if I seem naive about this.

I simply do not understand why, if Microsoft is guilty of monopolistic practices, the government isn't stepping in and demanding real measures to dismantle this monopoly.

Simply allowing Microsoft to give away product and old, refurbished computers isn't an effective remedy to this. It simply mirrors what happened when they began giving their Internet Explorer browser away for free.

Because they have huge, effectively bottomless cash reserves, they can easily weather this settlement. Note: The settlement's cash value is roughly equal to Microsoft's MONTHLY profit margin. It doesn't even begin to touch the billions Microsoft has socked away in the bank.

Additionally, this damages the competition even further. Because now the government is effectively distributing software for Microsoft. For free. How are competitors supposed to compete with products being GIVEN away? The answer? They CAN'T. So the settlement isn't even a slap on the wrists for Microsoft. It has the effect of giving a government sanction to an illegal monopoly. And more, government assistance in furthering that monopoly.

The DOJ needs to stop trying to take the easy, feel-good way out of this, admittedly, painful situation. The DOJ needs to begin seeking hard, truly workable solutions that REALLY penalize Microsoft for their illegal activities. Stop doing what's easy, and do what's RIGHT for a change.

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